

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Request for Continued Examination

The applicants respectfully request continued examination of the above-indicated application as per 37 CFR 1.114.

5 2. Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 8 and 13 have been amended to clarify the definition of the term "fixed" by including limitations fully supported by Fig. 2 and pertinent description of the specification. No new matter is introduced.

10 Claims 5 and 10 have been amended to claim that the common reading variables are stored in a dedicated storage area of the variable memory, which is fully supported by Fig. 2 and pertinent description of the specification. No new matter is introduced.

15 Claims 6 and 11 have been amended to claim that the stored common reading variables will not be replaced when a plurality of optical disks following the current optical disk are accessed by the optical disk drive, which is fully supported by specification paragraph [0015]: "The common reading variables stored in the first area 24 are utilized when reading all kinds of optical disks. Thus, whatever the optical disk drive reads, the data stored in the first area will not be replaced". No new matter is introduced.

20 Claim 16 has been amended to more clearly define the limitations. No new matter is introduced.

Consideration of above-identified claim amendments is respectfully requested.

3. Claim rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1 – 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al.

Response:Claim 1

Referring to the arguments stated in the first reply filed on 04/17/2007 in response to the final Office action, the applicant asserts that arrangements of the memory 300 and memory 400 capable of storing the control information are not fixed according to Watanabe's teachings. In short, Watanabe fails to teach using a fixed arrangement of the variable memory for optical disks of different types when accessed by the optical disk drive.

As Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the limitations directed to the fixed arrangement of the variable memory, the applicant asserts Claim 1 has overcome the rejections under 102(e).

Claims 2 - 4

Claims 2 - 4 are dependent on Claim 1. As the applicant believes Claim 1 has been placed in a position for allowance, claims 2 - 4 should also be found allowable.

15 Claim 5

Claim 5 has been amended to clarify that the common reading variables are stored in a dedicated storage area of the variable memory. Even though Watanabe's disclosure implies that the determination result of the optical disc determination block must be stored in certain type of memory, the applicant asserts that the dedicated storage area for storing the common reading variables is neither taught nor suggested, implicitly or explicitly, by Watanabe's teachings.

Additionally, Claim 5 is dependent on Claim 1. As the applicant believes Claim 1 has been placed in a position for allowance, Claim 5 should also be found allowable.

Claim 6

Claim 6 has been amended to clarify that the common reading variables stored in the variable memory is not replaced when a plurality of optical disks following the current optical disk are accessed. Even though Watanabe discloses storing common variables in a predetermined area of the memory (i.e., the control information storage section shown in Watanabe Fig. 10) to be compared with common variables of a newly inserted optical disk, the common variables of the newly inserted optical disk, however, will be stored into the same area in the memory to overwrite old control information read from a previously loaded optical disc after the comparison is completed. In other words, when another new optical disk is further inserted and accessed, the common variables in the predetermined area of the memory (i.e., the control information storage section shown in Watanabe Fig. 10) have been updated. Therefore, the claimed limitations recited in Claim 6 are neither taught nor suggested by Watanabe's teachings.

Additionally, Claim 6 is dependent on Claim 1. As the applicant believes Claim 1 has been placed in a position for allowance, Claim 6 should also be found allowable.

Claim 7

Claim 7 is dependent on Claim 1. As the applicant believes Claim 1 has been placed in a position for allowance, Claim 7 should also be found allowable.

Claim 8

Claim 8 has been amended to more clearly define the limitations directed to the fixed arrangement of the variable memory. Additionally, Claim 8 is a method claim comprising similar limitations to Claim 1, except that Claim 8 specifies reading data of a DVD. As the essential points of Claim 8 are the same as Claim 1, and the applicant believes Claim 1 has been placed in a position for allowance, Claim 8 should also be found allowable.

Claim 9

Claim 9 is dependent on Claim 8. As the applicant believes Claim 8 has been placed in a position for allowance, Claim 9 should also be found allowable.

Claim 10

- 5 In light of the reasons detailed under Claim 5, the applicant asserts that the claimed limitations are neither taught nor suggested by Watanabe's teachings. Additionally, Claim 10 is dependent on Claim 8. As the applicant believes Claim 8 has been placed in a position for allowance, Claim 10 should also be found allowable.

Claim 11

- 10 Claim 11 discloses the common reading variables in the memory will never be replaced. For the reasons detailed under Claim 6, the applicant believes Claim 11 should be found allowable over the prior art. Furthermore, Claim 11 is dependent on Claim 8 and should be found allowable if Claim 8 is found allowable.

Claim 12

- 15 Claim 12 is dependent on Claim 8. As the applicant believes Claim 8 has been placed in a position for allowance, Claim 12 should also be found allowable.

Claim 13

- 20 Claim 13 has been amended to more clearly define the limitations directed to the fixed arrangement of the variable memory. Additionally, Claim 13 is a method claim comprising similar limitations to claims 1 and 8, except that Claim 13 specifies the storing of writing variables. As the essential points of Claim 13 are the same as claims 1 and 8, and the applicant believes claims 1 and 8 have been placed in a position for allowance, Claim 13 should also be found allowable. Reconsideration of Claim 13 is respectfully requested.

Claims 14 - 16

Claims 14 - 16 are dependent on Claim 13. As the applicant believes Claim 13 has been placed in a position for allowance, Claims 14 - 16 should also be found allowable.

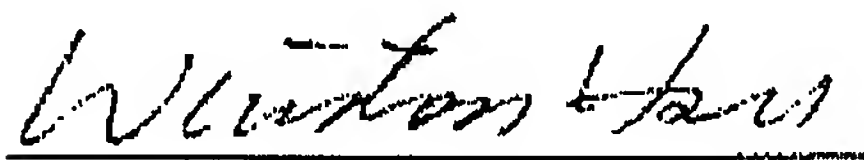
5 Claim 17

Claim 17 defines that reading variables and writing variables are separately stored in the variable memory. As Watanabe only discloses a memory where control information is stored in the same area of the memory, the applicant believes Claim 17 should be found allowable. Additionally, Claim 17 is dependent upon Claim 13, and
10 should be allowed if Claim 13 is found allowable.

Claim 18

Claim 18 is dependent on Claim 13. As the applicant believes Claim 13 has been placed in a position for allowance, Claim 18 should also be found allowable.

15 Applicant respectfully requests a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.
Sincerely yours,

Date: 06.15.2007

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25 Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C. is 12 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 9 PM in Taiwan.)